

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-10. (Cancelled)

11. **(Currently Amended)** A thermostat valve arrangement for a cooling circuit of an internal combustion engine, the thermostat valve arrangement comprising:

a housing having a main conical sealing valve seat;

a guide component supported by the housing and having a hollow cylindrical section;

a main valve member movably engageable with the main conical sealing valve seat formed on the housing;

a bypass valve member spaced from the main valve member in an axial direction of the main valve member and movably engageable with the hollow cylindrical section of the guide component;

an expansion element within the housing having a first section and a second section, said first section cooperable with an abutment fixed to the housing and said second section cooperable with the main valve member and the bypass valve member in the axial direction of the main valve member such that the main valve or the bypass valve is selectively closed or open to produce the cooling circuit of the internal combustion engine; and

a valve spring between the main valve member and the guide component ~~and surrounding the expansion element and the entire hollow cylindrical section of the guide component,~~

wherein

when the main valve member is closed, the main valve member is biased by the valve spring to be directly engaged with the main valve seat, and the bypass valve member is disengaged from the hollow cylindrical section of the guide component;

when the main valve member is open, the main valve member is pressed by an expansion of the expansion element and disengaged from the main valve seat, and the bypass valve member

is pressed by the expansion of the expansion element into the hollow cylindrical section of the guide component,

wherein

said guide component includes a radial flange integrated with the hollow cylindrical section and projecting radially away from the expansion element,

said valve spring surrounds the expansion element and the entirety of the hollow cylindrical section and up to the radial flange.

12. (Previously presented) The thermostat valve arrangement according to claim 11, wherein the main valve member comprises

a first plate and a second plate coaxially connected to the first plate , and

a sealing ring sandwiched between the two plates and directly engageable with the main conical sealing valve seat.

13. (Previously presented) The thermostat valve arrangement according to claim 12, wherein the first and second plates are connected to one another in a snap connection.

14. (Previously presented) The thermostat valve arrangement according to claim 13, wherein the expansion element comprises a shaft at the first section facing the main valve seat and a radial flange at the second section received in a complementary recess of the first plate which faces said flange.

15. (Previously presented) The thermostat valve arrangement according to claim 11, wherein the main valve member is connected to the bypass valve member via a plurality of axially parallel projections in the axial direction of the main valve member.

16. (Previously presented) The thermostat valve arrangement according to claim 15, wherein the second plate facing the bypass valve member is connected with the bypass valve member via the projections, and the second plate, the projections and the bypass valve member are an integral component.

17. (Previously presented) A thermostat valve arrangement for a cooling circuit of an internal combustion engine, the thermostat valve arrangement comprising:

a housing having a main conical sealing valve seat;

a guide component supported by the housing and having a hollow cylindrical section;

a main valve member movably engageable with the main conical sealing valve seat formed on the housing;

a bypass valve member spaced from the main valve member in an axial direction of the main valve member and movably engageable with the hollow cylindrical section of the guide component;

an expansion element within the housing having a first section and a second section, said first section cooperable with an abutment fixed to the housing and said second section cooperable with the main valve member and the bypass valve member in the axial direction of the main valve member such that the main valve or the bypass valve is selectively closed or open to produce the cooling circuit of the internal combustion engine; and

a valve spring between the main valve member and the guide component and surrounding the expansion element and the guide component,

wherein

when the main valve member is closed, the main valve member is biased by the valve spring to be directly engaged with the main valve seat, and the bypass valve member is disengaged from the hollow cylindrical section of the guide component;

when the main valve member is open, the main valve member is pressed by an expansion of the expansion element and disengaged from the main valve seat, and the bypass valve member is pressed by the expansion of the expansion element into the hollow cylindrical section of the guide component,

wherein the guide component comprises at least one guide groove parallel to the axial direction of the main valve member and extending into the hollow cylindrical section, and said guide groove includes a section facing the bypass valve member, and

the bypass valve member comprises a radial lug introduced into the section of the guide groove in a bayonet connection.

18. (Previously presented) The thermostat valve arrangement according to claim 17, wherein the guide component comprises a plurality of arms parallel to the axial direction of the main valve member and spaced apart from one another in a peripheral direction of the guide component, wherein said guide component includes multiple said guide grooves each of which is configured in a respective one of the arms.

19. (Currently Amended) The thermostat valve arrangement according to claim 11, wherein ~~the guide component comprises a radial flange projecting away from the expansion element and on which the valve spring is directly supported~~ by the radial flange.

20. (Previously presented) A thermostat valve arrangement for a cooling circuit of an internal combustion engine, the thermostat valve arrangement comprising:

a housing having a main conical sealing valve seat;

a guide component supported by the housing and having a hollow cylindrical section;

a main valve member movably engageable with the main conical sealing valve seat formed on the housing;

a bypass valve member spaced from the main valve member in an axial direction of the main valve member and movably engageable with the hollow cylindrical section of the guide component;

an expansion element within the housing having a first section and a second section, said first section cooperable with an abutment fixed to the housing and said second section cooperable with the main valve member and the bypass valve member in the axial direction of the main valve member such that the main valve or the bypass valve is selectively closed or open to produce the cooling circuit of the internal combustion engine; and

a valve spring between the main valve member and the guide component and surrounding the expansion element and the guide component,

wherein

when the main valve member is closed, the main valve member is biased by the valve spring to be directly engaged with the main valve seat, and the bypass valve member is disengaged from the hollow cylindrical section of the guide component;

when the main valve member is open, the main valve member is pressed by an expansion of the expansion element and disengaged from the main valve seat, and the bypass valve member is pressed by the expansion of the expansion element into the hollow cylindrical section of the guide component,

wherein

the housing further comprises an annular groove supporting the guide component, and the guide component comprises a projection or an annular rib cooperating with the annular groove to be supported by the guide component.

21. (Previously presented) The thermostat valve arrangement according to claim 12, wherein

the first plate comprises a plurality of recesses formed on a side of the first plate facing the second plate, and

the second plate comprises a plurality of pins passing through the sealing ring and directly engageable with the plurality of recesses of the first plate.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) The thermostat valve arrangement according to ~~claim 22~~claim 17, wherein the main valve member comprises

a first plate and a second plate coaxially connected to the first plate, and

a sealing ring sandwiched between the two plates and directly engageable with the conical sealing valve seat.

24. (Previously presented) The thermostat valve arrangement according to claim 23, wherein the first and second plates are connected to one another in a snap connection.

25. (Previously presented) The thermostat valve arrangement according to claim 24, wherein the expansion element comprises a shaft at the first section facing the main valve seat and a radial flange at the second section received in a complementary recess of the first plate which faces said flange.

26. (Previously presented) The thermostat valve arrangement according to claim 23, wherein the main valve member is connected to the bypass valve member via a plurality of axially parallel projections in the axial direction of the main valve member.

27. (Previously presented) The thermostat valve arrangement according to claim 26, wherein the second plate facing the bypass valve member is connected with the bypass valve member via the projections, and the second plate, the projections and the bypass valve member are an integral component.

28. **(Cancelled)**

29. **(Currently Amended)** The thermostat valve arrangement according to ~~claim 22~~claim 17, wherein the guide component comprises a radial flange projecting away from the expansion element and on which the valve spring is directly supported.

30. **(Currently Amended)** The thermostat valve arrangement according to ~~claim 22~~claim 17, wherein the housing further comprises an annular groove supporting the guide component, and the guide component comprises a projection or an annular rib cooperating with the annular groove to be supported by the guide component.

31. **(New)** The thermostat valve arrangement according to claim 11, wherein the guide component has a section opposite to the radial flange in the axial direction, said section being engageable with the bypass valve member, and

the bypass valve member is freely movable within the hollow cylindrical section between said section of the guide component and the radial flange.

32. (New) A thermostat valve arrangement for a cooling circuit of an internal combustion engine, the thermostat valve arrangement comprising:

a housing having a main conical sealing valve seat;

a guide component supported by the housing and having a hollow cylindrical section;

a main valve member movably engageable with the main conical sealing valve seat formed on the housing;

a bypass valve member spaced from the main valve member in an axial direction of the main valve member and freely moveable within the hollow cylindrical section of the guide component;

an expansion element within the housing having a first section and a second section, said first section cooperable with an abutment fixed to the housing and said second section cooperable with the main valve member and the bypass valve member in the axial direction of the main valve member such that the main valve or the bypass valve is selectively closed or open to produce the cooling circuit of the internal combustion engine; and

a valve spring between the main valve member and the guide component and surrounding the expansion element and the entire hollow cylindrical section of the guide component,

wherein

when the main valve member is closed, the main valve member is biased by the valve spring to be directly engaged with the main valve seat, and the bypass valve member is disengaged from the hollow cylindrical section of the guide component;

when the main valve member is open, the main valve member is pressed by an expansion of the expansion element and disengaged from the main valve seat, and the bypass valve member is pressed by the expansion of the expansion element into the hollow cylindrical section of the guide component.